

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. (Modified) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:
 - a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end;
 - a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end,
 - 5 the said first section of the lever member is pivotally attached to the first section of the said base member;
 - means of wedging under the staple crossbar;
 - means of supporting the substrate near the staple point;
 - means of lifting the staple from the substrate using the leverage from the lever member pivotally attached to the base member.
- 10 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wedging means comprises of a tongue.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising handles attached to the rear ends of the base member and the lever member.
- 15 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, including means of increasing the friction of the base member to the substrate.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the friction increasing means comprises of a rubber material attached to the underside of the base member.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein there is a groove in the tongue indicating the point where a staple can be removed.
 - 20 7. (Modified into an independent claim 54)
 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, including means of preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond the point where the staple can be removed.
 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the said preventing means comprises of a flange protruding from the middle of the said tongue.
 - 25 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the said preventing means comprises of notches in the tip of the said teeth.
 11. (Modified into claim 57)
 12. (Cancelled)
 - 30 13. (Cancelled)
 14. (Cancelled)
 15. (Cancelled)
 16. (Modified to depend on claim 57, renumbered to claim 59)
 17. (Modified to depend on claim 57, renumbered to claim 60)
 - 35 18. (Modified and renumbered to claim 98)
 19. (Replaced by dependant claim 65)
 20. (Modified and renumbered to claim 101)

- 21. (Modified and repositioned to depend on claim 72, renumbered to claim 77)
- 22. (Modified and repositioned to depend on claim 72, renumbered to claim 75)
- 23. (Renumbered to claim 76)
- 24. (Cancelled)
- 5 25. (Cancelled)
- 26. (Modified and repositioned to depend on claim 77, renumbered to claim 78)
- 27. (Modified and repositioned to depend on claim 77, renumbered to claim 79)
- 28. (Replaced by claim 104)
- 29. (Replaced by dependant claim 83)
- 10 30. (Replaced by dependant claim 84)
- 31. (Modified and repositioned to depend on claim 90, renumbered into claim 94)
- 32. (Cancelled)
- 33. (Cancelled)
- 34. (Replaced by dependant claim 106)
- 15 35. (Replaced by dependant claim 106)
- 36. (Replaced by dependant claim 106)
- 37. (Replaced by dependant claim 71)
- 38. (Replaced by dependant claim 71)
- 39. (Replaced by dependant claim 71)
- 20 40. (Modified to depend on claim 1) The apparatus of claim 1, where the base member further comprises of a folded member and a side member.
- 41. (Cancelled)
- 42. (Cancelled)

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the wedging means comprises of a tongue extending from the base member; a curved member extending from the lever member; and also comprising of the pincer action between the curved member and the tongue when the lever member is lifted.

5 44. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the said preventing means comprises of the tongue being wider after the point where the staple can be removed, wherein the wider width is larger than the distance between the legs of a staple.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, combined with a stapler, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member.

10 46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by being made together as one member.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by attachment means.

15 48. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the said lever member is housed around the staple driving lever.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the said lever member is pivotally connected to the side of the staple driving lever.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever.

20 51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by being made together as one member.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by attachment means.

25 53. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the said lever member is located to the side of the staple driving lever.

54. (New, modified from original defendant claim 7) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

30 a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end; a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end, the said first section of the lever member is pivotally connected to the first section of the said base member;

means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said base member;

35 means of supporting the substrate under the staple point with the same said tongue; means of lifting the staple from the substrate using the leverage from lifting up the lever member pivotally connected to the base member.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the base member further comprises of a

folded member, and a side member; and the said tongue extends from the folded member.

5 **56.** (New) The apparatus of claim **54**, wherein the base member further comprises of a folded member, and a side member; and the said tongue extends from the side member.

10 **57.** (New, modified from original claim 11) The apparatus of claim **54**, wherein the staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the base member, to a second position where the tip of the teeth is behind the staple point, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

15 **58.** (New, modified from original claim 10, repositioned to depend on claim **57**) The apparatus of claim **57**, including means of preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond the point where the staple can be removed, the said preventing means comprises of notches in the tip of the said teeth.

20 **59.** (New, modified from original claim 16, repositioned to depend on claim **57**) The apparatus of claim **57**, wherein the tongue of the base member contain grooves to facilitate the passage of the teeth of the lever member.

25 **60.** (New, modified from original claim 17, repositioned to depend on claim **57**) The apparatus of claim **57**, wherein the width of the tongue is no wider than the distance between the teeth of the jawed lever.

30 **61.** (New) The apparatus of claim **54**, wherein the staple lifting means comprises of a curved spade which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the teeth is above the said tongue of the base member, to a second position where the tip of the curved spade is behind the staple point, the said curved spade engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

35 **62.** (New) The apparatus of claim **61**, wherein the tongue of the base member contain a wide groove to facilitate the passage of the curved spade of the lever member.

40 **63.** (New) The apparatus of claim **54**, combined with a stapler, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member.

45 **64.** (New) The apparatus of claim **63**, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by being made together as one member.

50 **65.** (Replaced independent claim 19) The apparatus of claim **63**, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by attachment means.

55 **66.** (New) The apparatus of claim **63**, wherein the said lever member is housed around the staple driving lever.

60 **67.** (New) The apparatus of claim **63**, wherein:

the said lever member is pivotally connected to the side of the staple driving lever;
the said tongue is located to the side of the base member.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever.

5 69. (New) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by being made together as one member.

70. (New) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by attachment means..

71. (Replaces independent claims 37, 38, and 39) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein:

10 the said lever member is located to the side of the staple driving lever;
the said tongue is located to the side of the base member.

72. (New) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end;
a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end,

15 the said first section of the lever member is pivotally connected to the first section of the said base member;

means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said base member;

means of supporting the substrate under the staple point with the same said tongue;

20 means of lifting the staple from the substrate using the leverage from pushing down the lever member pivotally connected to the base member.

73. (New) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the base member comprises of a folded member, and a side member; and the said tongue extends from the folded member.

74. (New) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the base member comprises of a folded member, and a side member; and the said tongue extends from the side member.

25 75. (Modified from claim 22, repositioned to depend on claim 72) The apparatus of claim 72, including means of biasing the lever member away from the base member into the first position.

30 76. (New, modified from original claim 23) The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the biasing means comprises of a spring positioned between the levers.

77. (New, modified from original claim 21, repositioned to depend on claim 72) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the staple lifting means comprises of teeth which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said teeth is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the teeth is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

78. (New, modified from original claim 26, repositioned to depend on claim 77) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the tongue of the base member contain grooves to facilitate the passage of the teeth of the lever member.

5 79. (New, modified from original claim 27, repositioned to depend on claim 77) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the width of the tongue is no wider than the distance between the teeth of the lever member.

10 80. (New) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the staple lifting means comprises of a curved spade which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said curved spade is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the curved spade is well above the tongue, the said teeth engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

15 81. (New) The apparatus of claim 72, combined with a stapler, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member.

82. (New) The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by being made together as one member.

83. (New, replaced independent claim 29) The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by attachment means.

20 84. (New, replaced independent claim 30) The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the said lever member is housed around the staple driving lever.

85. (New) The apparatus of claim 81, wherein:

the said lever member is pivotally connected to the side of the staple driving lever;
the said tongue is located to the side of the base member.

25 86. (New) The apparatus of claim 81, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever.

87. (New) The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by being made together as one member.

88. (New) The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever by attachment means.

30 89. (New) The apparatus of claim 86, wherein:

the said lever member is located to the side of the staple driving lever;
the said tongue is located to the side of the base member.

90. (New) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

35 a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end;
a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near the front end,
the said first section of the lever member is pivotally connected to the first section of the said base member;

means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a first tongue extending from the front end of the said lever member;

means of supporting the substrate near the staple point;

means of lifting the staple from the substrate using the leverage from the lever member pivotally connected to the base member.

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91. (New) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the substrate supporting means comprises of the base member placed next to the staple.

92. (New) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the substrate supporting means comprises of a second tongue extending from the front end of the base member.

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93. (New) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein the substrate supporting means comprises of the back edges (65) of the sides of the said first tongue.

94. (New, modified from claim 31) The apparatus of claim 90, wherein:

the staple lifting means comprises of the said first tongue which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the baseline of the said first tongue is flush with the baseline of the base member, to a second position where the said first tongue is well above the baseline of the base member, the said first tongue lifts the staple from the substrate.

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95. (New) The apparatus of claim 90, combined with a stapler, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member.

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96. (New) The apparatus of claim 95, wherein the said base member is combined with the stapler base member by being made together as one member.

97. (New) The apparatus of claim 95, wherein the said lever member is combined with the staple driving lever.

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98. (New, modified from claim 18) An apparatus for removing staples, combined with a stapler, comprising:

a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;

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means of supporting the substrate under the staple point with the same said tongue; and a staple lifting means comprising of a curved member which extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the curved member is above the said tongue of the stapler base, to a second position where the tip of the curved member is

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beyond the staple point, the said curved member engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

99. (New) The apparatus of claim 98, where the curved member comprises of curved teeth.

100. (New) The apparatus of claim 98, where the curved member comprises of a curved spade.

101. (New, modified from claim 20) An apparatus for removing staples, combined with a stapler, comprising:

5 a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to a staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;

a lever member pivotally connected to the staple driving lever of the said stapler; means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of the said stapler base;

10 means of supporting the substrate near the staple point with the same said tongue; and a staple lifting means comprising of a curved member which extends from the front end of the said lever member, such that when the lever member is moved from a first position where the curved member is above the said tongue of the stapler base, to a second position where the tip of the curved member is beyond the staple point, the said curved member engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

102. (New) The apparatus of claim 101, where the curved member comprises of curved teeth.

103. (New) The apparatus of claim 101, where the curved member comprises of a curved spade.

104. (New, modified from claim 28) An apparatus for removing staples, combined with a stapler, comprising:

a stapler, with a stapler base pivotally connected to the staple driving lever, where the rear end is the staple driving end;

25 a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a curved member extending from the front end of the said stapler base;

means of supporting the substrate near the staple point with the said curved member; and a staple lifting means comprises of the curved member which extends from the front end of the said staple driving lever, such that when the staple driving lever is moved from a first position where the upper edge of the tip of the said curved member is flush with the upper edge of the tongue, to a second position where the tip of the curved member is well above the tongue, the said curved member engages the underside of the staple crossbar and lifts it from the substrate.

30 35 105. (New) The apparatus of claim 104, where the curved member comprises of curved teeth.

106. (New, replaces dependant claims 34, 35, and 36) The apparatus of claim 104, where the curved member comprises of a curved spade.

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